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A BROADCASTING "STATION" IN THE CAMEROUNS

The natives of this African mandate of France have a great variety of musical instruments—drums, harps, mandolins, rattles, etc. A special very soft music is made by striking stones with little flat cups (See Bulletin No. 3).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Cyprus, Once Proud Emporium of the East

THE movement to bring about a union between the Mediterranean Island of Cyprus and Greece, long smoldering, has flared up again. Since 1915, when England took complete possession of Cyprus from Turkey, and offered it to Greece in payment for aid in the campaign against Turkey during the World War, the island's ultimate destiny has been uncertain. Greece did not accept the offer, but the many Greek residents of Cyprus have kept the issue alive.

Cyprus, which is about the size of our Porto Rico, is a land of Greek people, Turkish customs, and British rule. In shape a rounded ox-hide, sprawling in the curve of sea where Syria and Turkey meet, it is exceeded in area in the Mediterranean only by the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

Rich in Romance and Tradition

Few places on earth are more richly endowed with romance and tradition than Cyprus, although to-day it is one of the least sophisticated and least visited of Mediterranean lands. Here was said to be the true home of the Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty, the Venus, of the ancient Greeks. Richard Coeur de Lion wrested Cyprus from a ruler who had won it by forging letters in his monarch's name, after that ruler, Isaac Comnenus, had refused to let the Crusader's shipwrecked and seasick lady land there the first time she asked.

Here, too, stand the bold ruins of the citadel of Famagusta, popularly known as Othello's Tower—but not until after the British occupation of Cyprus associated with Shakespeare's tragedy. Now even the natives of Cyprus proudly point it out as the spot where the dark-skinned Moor, inflamed by Iago, smothered his Desdemona.

Beans John the Baptist Ate

Four-fifths of the present-day population of Cyprus is Greek Christian, and nearly all the remainder is Turkish Mohammedan. The people farm in a primitive fashion, and until recently the famed Cyprian wine had its flavor affected unpleasantly by the use of tarred skins as carriers. Among Cyprian farm products are grains, cheese, oranges, ripe olives, and carobs, the latter the locust beans which John the Baptist is supposed to have eaten while in the wilderness.

Until fifty years ago, Cyprus had been wholly under Turkish control for two centuries. Although under British administration since 1878, and a British crown colony since the outbreak of the World War, Turkish influences linger. The governmental subdivisions of the island are the old Turkish ones; the laws are those of the Turkish code, with some changes; and Turkish weights and measures are still used.

Cyprus grain is bought and sold by kiles instead of bushels; olives and raisins and butter are measured by okes instead of pounds, and if you buy the beautiful handmade lace that Cyprian women make, you buy it by the pic, not by the yard.

See also "Unspoiled Cyprus," *National Geographic Magazine*, July, 1928, and "Cyprus Reports the Umber Business Good," GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS, week of May 4, 1931.

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CAMBODIA'S ROYAL DANCERS PRACTICE THEIR ART IN THE SHADOW OF ANGKOR'S CRUMBLING GLORY

Disciples of the dance in this distant ward of France in Asia begin their training in early youth. The colossal temple at Angkor, a mute reminder of the day when the Khmers of Cambodia ruled a vast empire stretching from the Bay of Bengal to the China Sea, was reproduced in detail at the Paris International Colonial Exposition (See Bulletin No. 3).

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Bahrein Islands, Where the Pearl Is the Principal Crop

PEARL "farming," or the production of pearls by delicate surgical operations on shells, has been so well developed in Japan in recent years that the warm salt water bays of the Empire of the Rising Sun now produce more than $2,000,000 worth of pearls annually.

The pearl "farms" of Japan, however, despite improved methods of culture, still do not compete with the islands of the Persian Gulf, principally the Bahrein Islands, where pearl-fishing has been carried on since the days of the Macedonians. The Bahrein Islands group, with an annual crop of pearls worth $5,000,000, is the base of operations for the world's most valuable pearl fisheries. England maintains an agent there and the ruling sheik is in treaty relations with the Government of India.

Doubly Blessed with Wealth

The Bahrein Islands lie 20 miles off the sand dune-fringed shore of Arabia in one of the hottest regions of the Near East, and might well be just another group of desert islands. But in reality these islands are doubly blessed: with a wealth on their surface and a wealth under the sea that bathes their shores. They possess the priceless asset in Arabia of great fresh-water springs; and they have the type of sand-bank conducive to the natural formation of fine pearls.

It is because of their under-sea wealth that the Bahrein Islands are best known. Ever since the dawn of history, naked men have gone overboard from boats in the Gulf of Bahrein to gather the great oysters that grow on the sea bottom. And from these meaty shells have come some of the famous pearls that through thousands of years have bedecked Indian potentates, and princesses and queens from Egypt to England.

Pearl fishing off the Bahrein Islands is a democratic and cooperative affair. Boats are permitted to use the waters and to operate from the islands upon payment of a small fee to the sheik. From June to November often as many as 5,000 small boats, each carrying from 6 to 15 men, are busy. The divers work in water varying in depth from 30 to 100 feet. Their only equipment consists of a nose clamp, beeswax ear plugs, a stone to drag them to the bottom, and a rope to serve as a signal cord and an elevator.

Divers Work on Share Basis

On many of the boats, the oysters of the preceding day's catch are spread out on deck and opened each morning before the diving begins. All pearls are turned over to the captain, and at the end of the season each man gets the share he has earned.

Of the five sizable islands of the group, Bahrein Island is of dominant importance. It is approximately 27 miles long and 10 miles wide. On it is Manama, the capital and metropolis of the archipelago, with a population of 40,000. On Muharrak Island, across a narrow strait, is the town of Muharrak with 20,000 inhabitants. The total population of the island group is about 100,000. The springs that gush out on the islands create several luxuriant oases that produce valuable crops of dates.

Manama, like the city of Victoria on the island of Hong Kong, seldom goes by its own name but usually takes the name of the island. Like Hong Kong, too, it is the island gateway for trade with the mainland.

Little was heard of the Bahrein Islands until they fell into the hands of Portuguese adventurers in 1507. The Portuguese were driven out in 1602 by Persian

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OTHELLO'S TOWER STILL FROWNS ON THE LITTLE HARBOR OF FAMAGUSTA, CYPRUS

This port, the best in Cyprus, was not always so listless. In the extravagant, luxurious days of the Lusignans, a dynasty of French Crusaders, merchants, pilgrims, scholars and soldiers flocked here. The citadel (whose ramparts can be seen just above the railroad cars) is popularly known as Othello's Tower, but not until after the British occupied Cyprus was it associated with Shakespeare's tragedy. Venice left a stone tablet of the Lion of St. Mark on a corner of its walls (See Bulletin No. 1).

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France Now Has Second Largest Colonial Empire

THE French International Colonial Exposition held in Paris this summer and fall calls attention to the vast colonial empire, second in area only to that of Great Britain, over which the tricolor of France now waves.

All modern Gaul is divided into some thirty parts, and dependencies. French colonies can be found in every continent except the North American mainland and Australia, although French-owned islands lie but a short sail from these. The French share the proud boast of the British that the sun never sets on their empire.

French Own Nearly Half of Africa

France's greatest success as a colonizer and administrator has been achieved in Africa, where the tricolor floats over nearly the whole western shoulder, from Italian Libya and the Anglo Egyptian Sudan to the Atlantic Ocean, and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Belgian Congo. The desolate Sahara covers much of this vast area, but there are fertile agricultural lands and mountains rich in phosphates in the north, rich cattle-raising plains in French Sudan and Chad, and almost untouched ivory, rubber and timber resources in the thick forest and jungle land of the Camerouns and French Equatorial Africa (see cover illustration).

Smaller, but important, is isolated French Somaliland, on the opposite shoulder of Africa. The district is hot and inhospitable, but through its port, Jibuti, France controls the commerce of Ethiopia (Abyssinia). In the Indian Ocean, not far from the east coast of Africa, lie the Comoro Islands, Madagascar, and Réunion. Madagascar, one of the world's largest islands, produces much vanilla.

Syria, including a Syrian Republic and a Lebanese Republic, has been French by mandate of the Supreme Council of Allied Powers since 1923.

Five Bits of India

Not all of India is British controlled. France has five diminutive colonies along the coast of the great empire; Mahe on the west coast a short distance north of Calicut; Karikal, Pondicherry and Yanaon on the east coast; and Chandernagore, north of Calcutta. The latter is so surrounded by British pink that a geography student might easily miss it without apology.

French Indo-China, almost mile for mile equal in area to Texas, has 20,000,000 inhabitants and one of the world's greatest rice producing areas. Thousands of mulberry trees, food for silkworms, form the basis of a prosperous Indo-China silk industry. Kwangchow Wan, a Chinese port south of Canton, is under the authority of the Governor of French Indo-China (see illustration, page 2).

France is well stocked with islands. Off the northeast coast of Australia lie the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia, and many smaller groups, and the New Hebrides, which are jointly governed by the French and British. Many of the 47,500 inhabitants of these South Sea paradise areas are pagan natives, but cannibalism is not openly practiced. Some of the older natives have holes in their ears which once held wooden disks, but now are used for pipe racks.

Romantic Patches of the South Seas

Tahiti is even more interesting and alluring. It is the center of the Society Islands, and a port-of-call for world tourists. Not far away are the Marquesas, the Tubuai group, Tuamotu archipelago, Gambier and Rapa Islands, where singing, dancing, feasting, and all that suggests happiness and romance are part of the daily life of the natives.

At the edge of the Antarctic Ocean, where that body of water merges with the Indian Ocean, France lays claim to several uninhabited islands, among them St. Paul, Amsterdam, the Crozet Islands, and the Kerguelen Islands. All of them are potentially valuable as whaling stations. Early this year France sent a warship to take formal possession of the Kerguelen Islands, which are richly populated with seals, and their waters with sea elephants, sea leopards and whales.

It is a long jump from here to the French colonies in the Americas. French Guiana, one of the European triplets of South America's north coast, has diamonds, gold, silver, mercury, tin and copper, but it is best known because it is the principal French penal colony, possessing

forces. It is on this event and the subsequent 180 years of occupation that Persia based a claim to the islands in 1930. In 1782 Arab tribesmen from the Arabian mainland took possession, and a sheik from this tribe has been the local ruler of the islands ever since. The British view is that Bahrein is an independent principality in alliance with the Indian Government and under the protection of Great Britain. Great Britain established treaty relations with the Sheik of Bahrein in 1820 and suppressed piracy in the near-by waters.

Bahrein Island is low except for one rocky hill about 400 feet high. In the central plain of the island are numerous burial tumuli that have aroused the interest and curiosity of archeologists. The earliest cities to be built in the world, so far as is known, were built on the Sumerian plains of Mesopotamia, a few hundred miles north of Bahrein. It has been suggested that the culture on Bahrein Island may have antedated that of Sumeria, but so far no exhaustive study of the island has been made.

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© *Photograph by Edith S. Watson*

FISHWIVES OF THE ISLAND OF ST. PIERRE, A LAST REMNANT OF THE ONCE GREAT FRENCH EMPIRE IN AMERICA

The tiny islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, ceded by Great Britain to France as shelters for her fishermen by the Treaty of Paris, 1763, nestle under the south shore of Newfoundland. St. Pierre is the smaller, but the more important of the two, and presents a busy aspect during the fishing season. These women are beheading capelin, so called because the early French fishermen saw a resemblance to the European capelan, a small cod. But the American fish really should be classed as a smelt (See Bulletin No. 3).

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A Bird with Winged Thumbs, Another That Dons Make-Up

A BIRD with "thumbs" on its wings, which, when only a few days old can climb back into its nest if it falls out, is among the unusual types represented in the collection of more than 3,000 specimens of feathered creatures just brought to Washington by Ernest G. Holt, who led the Brazil-Venezuela Expedition of the National Geographic Society into little-known parts of northern South America.

In addition to the odd climbing bird, the hoatzin, the collection includes birds of gorgeous plumage, like the cock-of-the-rock, "most beautiful bird in the world"; tiny specimens with abnormally long bills; orioles that weave nests 5 feet long; and birds proficient in "make-up," who deliberately enhance their beauty.

A Year's Work Ahead

Only a few high lights of the large collection have so far been brought to view. At least a year of laboratory work will be necessary properly to study and classify the birds and to compare them with known types. The material has been presented by the National Geographic Society to the National Museum to enrich its collection of the feathered creatures of the Americas.

Even with only the preliminary work which has been done it is known that the Brazil-Venezuela material contains many rare specimens and it is believed that a number of them will be new to science. It is estimated that probably 50 per cent of the birds are new to the National Museum's collection.

The hoatzin was found along the Casiquiare, the unique arm of the Orinoco which flows out of that river and into the Amazon system. The nestling birds have a queer "thumb" or claw at the bend of the wing when hatched. Although the adult bird is not aquatic, it builds its nest on bushes hanging over the water. The nestling, if it falls into the water, swims out with perfect ease and climbs up the bushes back to its nest. The "thumbs" fall off when the bird becomes full grown.

A Winged Beauty's "Make-up"

Nature made the mot-mot, another of the specimens, very beautiful with its greenish sheen and its head of turquoise and aquamarine, and with its long, graceful tail feathers which more than double its length. But the mot-mot is not satisfied and insists on performing a beauty operation that might be compared to the eyebrow plucking of Miss 1931.

Both the male and the female mot-mots bite away a portion of their tail feathers near the ends so as to leave an elliptical bit of feather or rachis on the tip of the quill like that which marks the butt of an arrow.

The cock-of-the-rock, which has been acclaimed by bird lovers for its beauty, is about the size of a pigeon and is feathered from bill to tail in most striking flame color. An outstanding feature of the bird is a large double crest which sweeps from the upper tip of its bill to the base of its skull. The hen is of a rich brown color and is practically the same size as the cock with a smaller crest, also of brown.

Male Dances before Its Mate

A few of the other unusual birds in the collection are the tiny manikins, the males of which dance before the females; the capuchin or bald-headed calf-bird which has a hoarse cry like a calf; the smallest woodpecker in the world, smaller

the famous Devil's Island. Cayenne, its capital, ships no pepper, but it carries on an active trade with the Indians of the interior.

Remnants of a Greater Realm

In the West Indies the tricolor floats over Guadeloupe and Martinique, whose combined population of whites, mulattoes, negroes, and orientals is almost half a million. Martinique has not forgotten the terrible eruption of Mt. Pelée in 1902, when the city of St. Pierre was completely wiped out.

French North America consists principally of two rocky islands off the south coast of Newfoundland. St. Pierre and Miquelon are peopled by about 4,000 sturdy fisherfolk of Breton and Norman stock. Early this year France was also awarded Clipperton Rock, an uninhabited island 600 miles off the west coast of Mexico.

All told, the French flag flies over almost 4,000,000 square miles and 100,000,000 people. The French Empire is thus about a third as large as the British, and has about one-quarter as many people.

NOTE: Several interesting articles about French possessions have appeared in recent issues of the *National Geographic Magazine*. For supplementary reading and pictures, many of them in natural color, see: "The Citröen-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition Reaches Kashmir" (Syria), October, 1931; "Sailing Forbidden Coasts" (French Somaliland), September, 1931; "Along the Old Mandarin Road of Indo-China," and "Under the French Tricolor in Indo-China," August, 1931; "The French Mandate of Cameroun," February, 1931; "Across Madagascar," August, 1929; "By Seaplane to Six Continents" (Senegal), September, 1928; "Around the World in the Islander" (French South Seas Islands), February, 1928; "Sindbads of Science" (French West Africa), July, 1927; "Through the Jungles and Deserts of Africa by Motor," June, 1926; "Across French and Spanish Morocco," March, 1925; and "Timbuctu, in the Sands of the Sahara," January, 1924. These articles may be consulted in the bound volumes of *The Geographic* in your school or public library.

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A MADAGASCAR PLANT THAT MAY SOLVE OUR RUBBER PROBLEM

A scientist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture recently brought back several specimens of intisy rubber plants from this great French island off the east coast of Africa. Specimens have been sent to California and Florida. In these two States and in Arizona it is hoped they will find ideal conditions for growth, thus helping to make us independent of foreign sources of rubber supply.

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San Antonio, Home of New West Point of the Air

SAN ANTONIO, venerable Texan city of 232,000 population, has just achieved new honors. Completion of Randolph Field by the Army Air Corps in a 2,300-acre plot just outside the city limits gives San Antonio the world's first purely aeronautical city, a $15,000,000 "West Point of the Air." Eighteen huge hangars house 275 planes, and quarters are provided for cadet flyers who will live under as rigid supervision as do the cadets at West Point.

The central community of Randolph Field, a new city of Spanish-Mission homes and buildings, taking care of a population of 1,700 military personnel and some 1,800 civilians, will be cut off from the outside world by flying fields on all sides. Near San Antonio, too, is Brooks Field, former training school, which will become the home of the 12th Observation Group of the Army Air Corps.

One of Our Oldest Cities

San Antonio, now an aviation center of major importance, early this year celebrated its 200th birthday, and is one of the oldest large cities of the United States. Only seven other American cities that have reached the 200,000 population mark can claim a longer period of municipal existence.

The little Spanish and Mexican town was so remote from the American communities along the Atlantic coast and their extensions into the Mississippi Valley, that it had existed under its alcalde and council for three-quarters of a century almost unknown to people of the United States before the forts that grew into Buffalo and Chicago were established. The Texas municipality had half a century of history behind it when the first settlements were made at San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The settlement at the site of San Antonio really came into being thirteen years before the municipality was established, so that the community has existed for 213 years. The first white men came to live there in 1718, the same year in which New Orleans was born. These pioneers were Franciscan friars who tramped overland across desert and wilderness for 900 miles from settled communities in Mexico. They established their mission on the banks of what is now the San Antonio River, and some years later built on the spot the mission church of San Antonio de Valero. By a strange fate this church lost its name and became the historic "Alamo." But its name, on the other hand, was passed on to the river and city of to-day.

Alamo Is Shrine

The Alamo still stands in San Antonio, facing its palm-shaded plaza. It is owned by the State Government and is a shrine to Texans because, during the War of Texan Independence against Mexico, its entire garrison of 188 Texan soldiers, refusing to surrender, was annihilated.

Differing from most American communities, the settlement that became San Antonio had, in the early days, a threefold aspect—religious, military, and civil. The settlements were actually separate, although within a few thousand yards of each other: the Mission of San Antonio de Valero, the Presidio (or fort) of San Antonio de Bexar, and the Villa (or town) of San Fernando. Eventually the three settlements were merged. All three names are preserved to-day: San Antonio in the city and river, Bexar in the county, and San Fernando in the beautiful, twin-towered cathedral of Spanish architecture that rises above the Main Plaza.

For the first century and a quarter of its existence, San Antonio was almost wholly a Spanish and Mexican town. Its better buildings were low, flat-roofed, mud-brick (adobe) structures, and its poorer ones were "jacals," the humble stick and mud and straw shelters of the poorest Mexicans. Immigration set in after Texas joined the United States in 1845, and by the outbreak of the Civil War the population was one-third Mexican, one-third American, and one-third German.

Up to this time San Antonio had been on the frontier; beyond was a wilderness of mesquite bushes. After the Civil War this wilderness was opened up by ranchers for great herds of cattle, and San Antonio became a capital of the "cow country."

With the arrival of railways in the late seventies and early eighties of the past century, the city began a rapid growth that has wiped out most of the marks of Mexican village and prairie "cow town," and has transformed it into a modern American city. Where one-story adobes stood the city now has its hundreds of eight and ten-story business blocks, its dozens of fifteen and eighteen-story office buildings, and even structures that tower thirty odd stories above the old adobe level. And where the old Presidio housed its hundred or so Spanish and Mexican soldiers, Uncle Sam, with his Eighth Corps Area Army Headquarters, his infantry, cavalry, artillery, motor transport, and airplane units, now maintains thousands of soldiers in the city in

than many humming birds; the smallest American kingfisher, of less bulk than a house wren, which has forsaken the fishing ways of the kingfisher tribe and lives wholly upon insects; jacamars, shaped like giant humming birds; and cotingas, highly colored creatures with extra wing feathers which hum as they fly.

An outstanding specimen of the collection which has been identified is Heilprin's Jay, a very rare bird of which only two specimens have so far been recorded, one in Philadelphia, and one in Europe.

NOTE: See also "In Humboldt's Wake," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1931; and "Through Brazil to the Summit of Mount Roraima," November, 1930.

Bulletin No. 4, November 16, 1931.

© *Photograph by T. D. Carter*

ONE OF SOUTH AMERICA'S STRANGEST BIRDS

The music of the bell bird resounds through the dense jungles of Brazil, Venezuela and the Guianas. From a distance its "clink-cla-ang" resembles the noise made by repeated blows of a hammer on an anvil. This species, whose Latin name is *Procnias variegata*, has a silver-gray body, coffee-brown head and wings of black. From its throat hang long, black wattles that give it the appearance of eating hay.

peace times, and scores of thousands in times of war. The discovery of natural gas and petroleum fields near the city has made San Antonio a center for those industries.

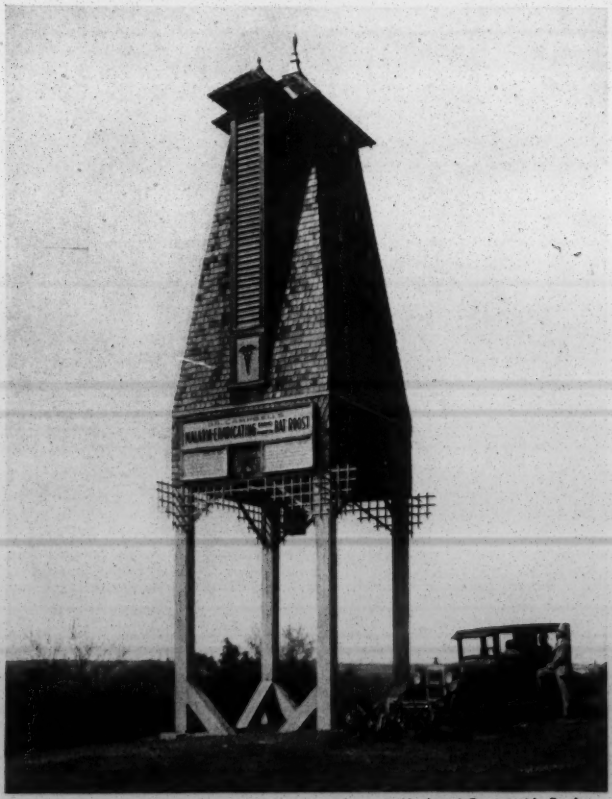
Despite the changes from sleepy village to bustling city and from squat adobe to soaring skyscraper, San Antonio has managed to cling to some of its Latin flavor. Throughout the city are scattered little sun-bathed plazas set with palms and century plants, banana trees and ligustrums. One of these plazas is dominated by the Alamo, another by the Cathedral, while along one side of a third extends the long, low adobe "palace" of the former Spanish and Mexican governors. This building, long in disrepair, was restored for the bicentennial celebration.

Strung out to the south down the San Antonio River Valley for nine miles is a series of four mission churches, partly ruined, that were built about the time of the erection of the Alamo. About each of these cling legends of the days when Spanish padres dreamed of Christianizing the savage Indians of Texas and making them into communities of agriculturalists.

The San Antonio River, meandering through the heart of the city, gives to San Antonio a flavor all its own, a flavor more Dutch than Spanish. As this clear little stream winds along it is crossed by more than four score bridges. The San Antonio River springs full grown from great springs within the city limits. It is a small stream and has been supplied with a cement bed and banks throughout most of the business district.

NOTE: For supplementary reading about San Antonio and our largest State, see "So Big Texas," *National Geographic Magazine*, June, 1928. Students interested in aeronautics will find many interesting and authoritative articles on the subject by consulting "Aeronautics" in the Cumulative Index of *The Magazine* in your school or public library.

Bulletin No. 5, November 16, 1931.



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ANOTHER TYPE OF SAN ANTONIO "HANGAR"

By providing these free lodging places for bats the Texas metropolis expects in time to be free of troublesome mosquitoes. From these slat-shaded windows thousands of bats flutter at dusk, on mosquito hunts, for the bat eats the insect. At dawn they fly back, to sleep all day in their dark retreat.